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From: bounce-263007-8026200@listserv.state.ma.us on behalf of Arthur Bernard
<Constituent.Services@state.ma.us>
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2010 7:59 PM
To: Farak, Sonja (DPH)
Subject: Governor's Statewide Youth Council

Greetings,

I am pleased to inform you of an opportunity to involve young people in state government.

In 2008, the Governor's Office of Community Affairs established the Governor's Statewide Youth Council. The goal of the Council is to encourage the Commonwealth's young people to become involved in their communities and to participate in planning and problem solving by taking on leadership roles. The Youth Council will focus on issues important to youth as well as the Governor's priorities of education, economic development and civic engagement. The Youth Council will act as an advisory body to the Governor and his Administration.

In developing the concept for the Council, an extensive outreach process was utilized. Between January and March of 2008, four planning meetings were held in Boston, Lowell, Worcester, and Springfield, with approximately 80 young people attending each meeting. Eighty-three community- and faith-based organizations also participated in this process.

The Statewide Youth Council will be comprised of 28 young people ages 14 to 20 representing the 14 counties in the Commonwealth, with two representatives per county. Participants will come from various walks of life and will represent the diversity of the Commonwealth.

Each youth member, together with his or her adult sponsor, will also be responsible for organizing meetings in their local communities to assess which issues should be brought to the statewide council. This will provide more access opportunities for youth to become involved beyond the 28 official representatives, and in this manner will better serve all of the youth of Massachusetts.

Selection of the council will be by application, which is available at www.mass.gov/governor/youthcouncil. Youth will have until July 30, 2010 to submit the application. A selection committee will review the applications and select the 28 members, who will then be notified via mail.

The Office of Community Affairs is dedicated to ensuring that the Council serves the Governor with its full potential. If you would like to become involved, please contact the Office of Community Affairs at 617-725-4020. I encourage you to share this information with individuals or organizations with whom you work that may be interested in this tremendous opportunity. I thank you, in advance, for your interest and support.

Sincerely,
Arthur Bernard
Chief of Staff
Office of Governor Patrick